

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's remarks presented in the Advisory Action mailed on May 5, 2006, in which the Examiner renewed his rejection of the claims in the final Office Action mailed on March 3, 2006. Currently, claims 1-6, 8, 17-18, 20-26, 30-31, 33-36, 39 and 45 are pending in the Application, wherein claims 17-18, 21-26, and 45 have been finally rejected and claims 1-6, 8, 20, 30-31, 33-36, and 39 have been withdrawn from consideration.

With this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6, 8, 17-18, 20-26, 30-31, 33-36, 39, and 45, and have added newly presented claims 46-60 for examination. Applicants assert that these newly presented claims are fully supported by the original specification and drawings, include no new matter, and are patentable over the cited prior art. In addition, Applicants submit that these newly presented claims read on the previously elected species of Group V, corresponding to Figure 11.

Newly presented claims 46-60 are believed to be patentable and overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections raised in the final Office Action and maintained in the Advisory Action. Newly presented independent claim 46 recites, among other novel elements, that the actuation assembly includes a button axially rotatable along a line that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the outer sheath, the button having a gear in engagement with a number of gear teeth on the proximal end of the outer sheath. In similar fashion, newly presented independent claims 54 and 60 each recite, among other novel elements, that the actual assembly includes a button axially rotatable along a line that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the outer sheath, the button having a number of gear teeth in engagement with gear teeth on a proximal tubular member of the outer

sheath. Support for newly presented claims 46-60 can be found, for example, on pages 12-13 of the specification, and in Figures 11-12 of the drawings.

Applicants assert that *Turovsky et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0128679) in view of *Gillick et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,755,854) and *Sugarbaker et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,928,264) fail to disclose or suggest at least these claim limitations, and thus do no render claims 46-60 obvious. Therefore, all pending claims are believed to be patentable over the cited prior art.

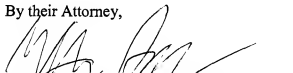
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims are currently in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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